Sumgayit is a former Soviet industrial base in Azerbaijan that pollutes the surrounding area with industrial chemicals and heavy metals. Cancer rates there are 22 per cent to 51 per cent higher than the national average, the Blacksmith Institute says.
A young coalminer in Linfen, China, regularly cited as the most polluted city in China. Coal provides 70 per cent of China’s energy supply and rapid industrialisation there has resulted in some of the worst air, soil and water pollution in the world.
Children in La Oroya, Peru, suffer from dangerously high levels of lead pollution in the blood as a result of their proximity to the nearby mining and processing operations of Doe Run.
Vapi is a town in India where over fifty industrial estates poison the local soils and groundwater with pesticides and metals. The Sukinda valley, also named in the Blacksmith Institute’s report, is the site of over 97 per cent of India’s chromite ore deposits. Twelve mines operate there without environmental controls, leaching hexavalent chromium into drinking water supplies.
In Dzerzhinsk, centre of Russia’s chemical manufacturing industry, waste from 190 chemicals has turned the groundwater into a dangerous toxic sludge and led to life expectancy levels of 42 for men and 47 for women.
Norilsk, Russia has the world's largest heavy metals smelting complex. Pollution from mining and smelting operations in the area has led to respiratory illnesses among the city's children.
The lingering after effects of the 1986 disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear reactor in Ukraine have resulted in thousands of cancer deaths.
Young men look for metal near an abandoned lead mine in Kabwe, Zambia where unregulated mining and smelting operations have resulted in lead dust covering large areas. Many children in the area suffer from severe lead poisoning.